

Portland State University
PDXScholar

Dissertations and Theses

Dissertations and Theses

1986

Neutron activation analysis and chemical inference for the identification of Buena Vista ceramics

Daniel D. Sullivan
Portland State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/open_access_etds



Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#), and the [Ceramic Arts Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Sullivan, Daniel D., "Neutron activation analysis and chemical inference for the identification of Buena Vista ceramics" (1986). *Dissertations and Theses*. Paper 3699.
<https://doi.org/10.15760/etd.5583>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Dissertations and Theses by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF Daniel D. Sullivan for the Master of Arts
in Anthropology presented May 15, 1986.

Title: Neutron Activation Analysis and Chemical Inference for the
Identification of Buena Vista Ceramics.

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE THESIS COMMITTEE:



Daniel J. Scheans, Chairman



M. Ann Bennett



Marvin H. Beeson



Kenneth M. Ames



Dennis W. Barnum

Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis was used for this study of stonewares collected from the site of the Buena Vista/Oregon Pottery Company (1866-1890).

The results show significant chemical signatures in the samples tested. Thorium/ytterbium and thorium/chromium ratios within their respective ranges of variation demonstrate a relative conformity among all samples of Buena Vista ceramics.

NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS AND CHEMICAL
INFERENCE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION
OF BUENA VISTA CERAMICS

by

DANIEL D. SULLIVAN

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

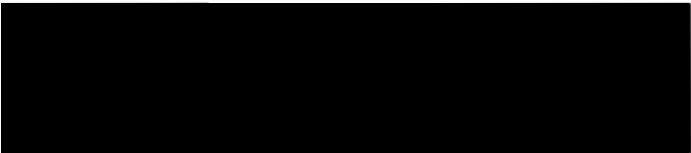
MASTER OF ARTS
in
ANTHROPOLOGY

Portland State University

1986

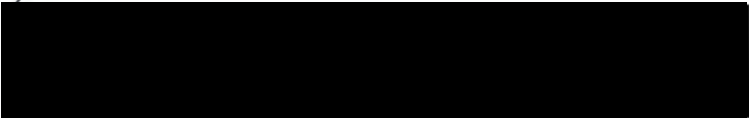
TO THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH:

The members of the Committee approve the thesis of Daniel D.
Sullivan presented May 15, 1986.


Daniel J. Scheans, Chairman


M. Ann Bennett


Marvin H. Beeson


Kenneth M. Ames


Dennis W. Barnum

APPROVED:


Marc R. Feldesman, Head, Department of Anthropology


Bernard Ross, Acting Dean, Graduate Studies and Research

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am greatly indebted to Daniel Scheans, my academic advisor and thesis committee chairman, for his encouragement and guidance throughout this investigation. Without his preliminary study this investigation would not have been possible.

My gratitude goes to Marvin Beeson as a member of my committee and for his generous consultation. Without the technical facilities made available by him, the analysis in this investigation could not have been completed.

I would like to thank Ann Bennett for serving on my committee and especially for her editorial assistance.

I wish to express my appreciation to Kenneth Ames and Dennis Barnum for serving on my committee and for their constructive discussion.

A special thanks to Michael Pollock for the knowledge and advice he shared with me. Without his assistance I could not have performed the specialized tasks required for Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES.....	v
LIST OF FIGURES.....	vi
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION.....	1
Quantification.....	2
History.....	3
II EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE.....	4
Samples.....	4
Preparation.....	4
Irradiation and Assay.....	6
Selection of Elements.....	8
III RESULTS.....	10
IV DISCUSSION.....	15
Th/Yb and Th/Cr Ratios.....	15
Chemical Variability.....	15
V CONCLUSIONS.....	19
REFERENCES CITED.....	21
APPENDIX.....	22

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
I	Buena Vista and Palouse Pottery Company Neutron Activation Analysis Samples.....	5
II	Characteristics of Selected Elements in Buena Vista and Palouse Ceramics.....	7
III	Mean Element Concentrations in Ceramic Samples.....	11

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
1.	Scattergram of Th/Yb Ratios for Buena Vista and Palouse Ceramics Samples.....	13
2.	Scattergram of Th/Cr Ratios for Buena Vista and Palouse Ceramic Samples.....	14
3.	Comparison of the Concentration Ranges of Selected Elements for Buena Vista and Palouse Ceramics.....	18

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The principle objective of this study is to determine the existence of chemical conformities in the clay(s) used for the manufacture of Buena Vista ceramics that may differ from those in similar ceramics from the same historic period. Buena Vista ceramics have been described in a preliminary study by Scheans (1984). His study is focused on stylistic and technological attributes found in ceramic sherds which were surface collected and excavated from a waster dump at the site of the Buena Vista/Oregon Pottery Company and compared to whole pieces from private collections. Scheans' analysis has established a typology for and characterized the process of manufacture of Buena Vista stonewares. Differences in style and technology have raised questions about the continuity of the material used for production of these ceramics both in time and location. Therefore, underlying this study is the need to improve the precision of inference and, thereby, future historical, archaeological, and anthropological interpretations of Buena Vista ceramics and others unique to the historical cultural development of the Pacific Northwest.

Clay, being a material specific to its geological origins and various weathering processes, is a configuration of recognizable proportions of chemical elements and conditions leading to deposition. Given a relatively uniform environment for manufacture (e.g., kiln

temperature, addition of temper, etc.), the products of a specific pottery (e.g., the Buena Vista Pottery Company) should reflect a chemical composition for the most part unchanged from that of the clay(s) used in the process. Using appropriate analytical methods permits (1) the determination of any conformity among samples and, (2) validation of the clay source(s) and its associated manufacturing provenience. Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA) is a method for quantitative elemental analysis. The data derived from INAA can produce meaningful results not only on its own merits, but also (1) enhance the credibility of inferences made through other types of analysis and, (2) raise further research objectives.

Chemical compositional studies are in flux and mistakes are being made, but instrumental analytical techniques are sensitive, statistical methods are powerful, and effective characterization of pottery is more than a gleam in the eye of the analyst. In evaluating this approach, we especially note the potential of workshop debris (kiln wasters) in establishing local reference groups... As in much archaeological research, ceramic compositional analysis takes place at the interface of the natural environment with the social and cultural components of production. With modest improvement in our present body of methods and more judicious use of available techniques, we should soon be able to examine nuances of these relationships (Bishop, Rands and Holley 1982:318, 320).

QUANTIFICATION

Beyond statistical methods embedded in the computer programs required for the derivation of data in this study, elaborate statistical presentations will not be made. Rather, derived data will be displayed in tabular form, and data with inferential merit will be displayed graphically and in bivariate plots. Samples used in this study are not representative of a statistical population. Rather, they were selected

for INAA on the basis of attributes illustrating a transect of style and technology found in diagnostic sherds from Scheans' (1984) study assemblage. Two questions are considered here: (1) Are any of the variations in style and technology in the assemblage the result of intrusive ceramics? and/or, (2) Are any variations in style and technology in the assemblage a record of historical development at the site?

HISTORY

The site of the Buena Vista Pottery Company is located in Polk County, Oregon, just south of the town of Independence and a short distance from the left bank of the Willamette River. The pottery produced stonewares between 1866 and 1890 under the proprietorship of Freeman Smith and his son Amedee. The name was changed to the Oregon Pottery Company in 1888 (Scheans 1984:50). Archaeology students and volunteers made surface collections and one excavation at the site between 1981 and 1983. Diagnostic ceramic sherds were classified and catalogued at the Ceramic Analysis Laboratory at Portland State University where they are currently curated. Although the pottery produced a variety of products, this study is restricted to the three classes of vessels described by Scheans. These include slip glazed, salt glazed, and unglazed wares. Any taxonomic reference in the current study is consistent with the paradigms established within these classes.

CHAPTER II

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

SAMPLES

A total of 32 samples were used for INAA in this study. Twenty-seven of these samples were obtained from surface collections and one excavation at the Buena Vista site and selected from Scheans' (1984) study assemblage. The remaining five samples were from sherds known to be products of the Palouse Pottery Company, Washington, and selected from the Ceramic Analysis Laboratory collection at Portland State University. The Palouse samples represent the control group in this analysis. A summary of all samples appears in Table I.

PREPARATION

All samples were washed in tap water, dried, and crushed to a coarse powder with a stainless steel mortar and pestle. As indicated in Table I, selected samples were prepared with part of all glaze(s) removed to determine if proportions of elements within the clay bodies of the sherds would be significantly skewed by possibly different element proportions in the glazes. The remaining samples were prepared with glaze intact, or without, as in the case of bisquit wares. Between 0.9515 gm and 1.4679 gm of powder was weighed into 0.5 dram polyethylene sample vials which were then sealed and labeled.

TABLE I

BUENA VISTA AND PALOUSE POTTERY COMPANY
NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS SAMPLES

Sample Number	Artifact Number	Formal Description	Remarks
<u>Buena Vista Salt Glazed Wares</u> (Interior Albany Slip Glazed)			
BV-1	BV813	rim, pot	all glaze removed
BV-2	BV816	rim, pot	all glaze removed
BV-3	BV239	rim, pot	all glaze removed
BV-4	BV1569	rim, pot	all glaze removed
BV-5	BV809/811	rim, pot	all glaze removed
BV-6	BV813	body	Albany glaze removed
BV-7	BV813	body	salt glaze removed
BV-8	BV809/811	body	
BV-9	BV011	body	all glaze removed
BV-10	BV015	body	all glaze removed
BV-11	BV057/058/059	body	cobalt motif
BV-13	none	body	from BV3/Square CM, 12-18" below surface
<u>Buena Vista Albany Slip Glazed Wares</u> (Exterior and Interior Glazed)			
BV-14	BV689	rim, churn	
BV-15	BV289	rim, bowl	
BV-16	BV680	base, jar	
BV-17	BV948/952	section, bowl	salt glazed rim
BV-18	BV485	cover	
BV-20	BV895	cover	black glazed impressed floral motif, no interior glaze
BV-21	BV677	cover	brown glazed impressed floral motif, no interior glaze
BV-22	BV485	body	
BV-24	BV895	body	
BV-25	BV948/952	body	
<u>Buena Vista Bisquit Wares</u>			
BV-26	BV713	cover, churn	
BV-27	BV1707	rim, pot	
BV-28	BV567	rim, pot	
BV-29	BV961	rim, pan	
BV-31	BV1048	rim, jar	
<u>Palouse Salt Glazed Wares</u> (Interior Albany Slip Glazed)			
BV-51	none	body	cobalt motif
BV-52	none	body	cobalt motif, Albany glaze removed
BV-53	none	body	cobalt motif, salt glaze removed
BV-56	none	base	
BV-58	none	base	salt glaze removed

Unless noted, samples were prepared without removal of glaze(s). Palouse samples are from site 45-WF-133 and were collected by Idaho State University.

IRRADIATION AND ASSAY

The sealed vials were irradiated using the TRIGA MARK I, 250 kW thermal neutron reactor at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. The samples were co-irradiated with a sample of United States Geological Survey (USGS) standard diabase W-1 (Flanagan 1976) as a standard for all elements reported in this study. Exposure was for one hour at 225 kW with a flux of $1.8 \times 10^{12} \text{ n/cm}^2 \text{ sec}$.

Activities of the irradiated samples were measured using facilities of the Geology Department at Portland State University. Assay of the samples was conducted between four and one-half days and ten days after irradiation using a germanium-lithium high resolution detector coupled to a Tracor Northern 4000-channel pulse height analyzer and a floppy disk data recorder. Detection time was 1,000 seconds for all samples. A description of the neutron activation program and procedures can be found in McMillan (1978).

Data from floppy disks were hard-copied, recompiled, and tabulated according to selected elements and their respective half-lives in days, and gamma ray energies in keV as shown in Table II.

After formatting, all relevant data were then analyzed using a FORTRAN computer program which:

... reduces Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis data to element abundances by comparing samples to a known concentration in a standard. It also computes relative errors based on counting statistics (Beeson and Keedy 1968).

This program appears in the Appendix.

TABLE II
CHARACTERISTICS OF SELECTED ELEMENTS
IN BUENA VISTA AND PALOUSE
CERAMICS

<u>Element</u>	<u>Determined From</u>	<u>Half-Life (Days)*</u>	<u>Gamma Ray Energies (keV)*</u>
Samarium	^{153}Sm	1.950	103.2
Lutetium	^{177}Lu	6.796	208.4
Ytterbium	^{175}Yb	4.196	282.5 396.3
Thorium	^{233}Pa	27.000	311.9
Chromium	^{51}Cr	27.720	320.1
Lanthanum	^{140}La	1.678	328.8 487.0 815.8 1,596.2
Scandium	^{46}Sc	83.800	889.3 1,120.5
Iron**	^{59}Fe	44.600	1,099.2
Cobalt	^{60}Co	1,925.000	1,332.5
Sodium***	^{24}Na	0.625	1,368.6

* From McMillan (1978) except for ^{233}Pa and ^{51}Cr , which are from Filby, et al. (1970).

** Fe as FeO

*** Na as Na_2O

SELECTION OF ELEMENTS

With the exception of cobalt (Co), criteria for selection of elements after analysis was the co-occurrence of the same elements in all samples as prescribed by the standard used for the assay. Cobalt was included, even though it did not fully meet this criteria, because of its occurrence as a colorant in underglazes on some of the samples (see Table I).

Included in the selection process was a consideration of decreases in concentrations of elements in the clay(s) as a function of kiln firing temperatures. Rye (1981:49), reporting on the work of Attas, Yaffe, and Fossey (1977), notes that samarium (Sm), lutetium (Lu), thorium (Th), and chromium (Cr), as well as other elements (which are insignificant to this study), show decreases in concentration after firing. Differences in temperature from one firing to another, and/or a single firing depending on location within the kiln itself could contribute to the overall variability of certain elemental concentrations in clay(s) after firing. Only when sherds are being compared to clay(s) would this be of significance; and then, with temperatures determined to be in excess of 700°C, correction factors should be applied (1981:49). Stonewares are traditionally fired at kiln temperatures of between approximately 1200°C and 1300°C (Nelson 1971:141, 311). Since this study compares sherds to sherds (all of which have been technologically identified as stonewares) deviations in the concentrations of the selected elements which are sensitive to firing temperature are, at least in part, relative to kiln temperature firing

range. Subsequently, these deviations may be reflected as a part of the range of variation in the data.

CHAPTER III

RESULTS

Results of the analysis for selected elements are presented in Table III. Iron (Fe) and sodium (Na) are reported by convention as oxides. Ferrous oxide (FeO) and sodium oxide (Na_2O) may or may not have been resident in the samples from the perspective of INAA (Beeson 1986). It is worth noting, however, that FeO and Na_2O are commonly-occurring oxides in ceramic chemistry and are represented for Fe and Na in this study as a reference for variability between samples. FeO remains unchanged in the firing process, while Na_2O is the combustion product of sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3) with the loss of carbon dioxide (CO_2) (Nelson 1971:306 and Rye 1981:49). An examination of Table III shows a relative range of uniformity among all samples for Fe and Na.

As previously mentioned, Co was included because of its occurrence as a colorant in several samples. A brief comparison of the descriptions of samples in Table I to the data in Table II reveals that no apparent relationship exists in the assay as to whether Co could be visually identified and if so, whether or not it was mechanically removed.

Of the remaining elements in Table III, Th is the only element identified which clearly distinguishes the stonewares of the Buena Vista Pottery Company from those of the Palouse Pottery Company in the samples (see Table I). On this premise, Th was used as the ordinate

TABLE III
MEAN ELEMENT CONCENTRATIONS IN CERAMIC SAMPLES

Sample Number	Sm	Lu	Yb	Th	Cr	La	Sc	FeO	Co	Na ₂ O								
BV-1	20.50	0.20	0.97	0.17	5.80	0.90	15.00	4.00	106.00	15.00	3.00	0.30	2.30	0.20	15.00	3.00	0.74	0.
BV-2	12.97	0.15	0.88	0.15	5.20	0.80	11.00	3.00	83.00	11.00	63.10	1.90	16.39	0.20	1.80	0.20	11.00	2.00
BV-3	30.10	0.30	1.12	0.18	6.70	1.00	12.00	4.00	84.00	11.00	108.00	3.00	12.77	0.17	1.66	0.15	0.	0.38
BV-4	18.70	0.20	0.73	0.13	4.60	0.70	13.00	4.00	80.00	10.00	84.00	2.00	15.97	0.18	1.84	0.14	0.	0.35
BV-5	15.64	0.18	0.86	0.15	4.90	0.80	13.00	4.00	95.00	12.00	74.00	2.00	17.00	0.20	1.71	0.18	12.00	3.00
BV-6	18.60	0.20	0.86	0.15	5.10	0.80	13.00	4.00	88.00	13.00	89.00	3.00	17.80	0.20	2.20	0.20	0.	0.84
BV-7	17.60	0.20	0.78	0.14	4.80	0.80	13.00	4.00	83.00	12.00	84.00	2.00	17.00	0.20	2.42	0.19	0.	0.64
BV-8	15.71	0.18	0.89	0.15	5.20	0.80	14.00	4.00	75.00	12.00	75.00	2.00	17.20	0.20	2.09	0.18	14.00	3.00
BV-9	14.71	0.18	1.10	0.18	5.30	0.80	14.00	4.00	86.00	12.00	71.00	2.00	18.00	0.20	1.89	0.19	10.00	3.00
BV-10	15.23	0.18	0.97	0.17	5.30	0.90	14.00	4.00	79.00	13.00	74.00	2.00	16.80	0.20	2.10	0.20	14.00	3.00
BV-11	21.60	0.20	1.12	0.19	6.20	1.00	12.00	3.00	89.00	12.00	99.00	3.00	16.10	0.20	1.78	0.18	11.00	3.00
BV-13	13.90	0.16	0.75	0.13	4.40	0.60	12.00	3.00	83.00	11.00	64.90	1.90	15.68	0.19	1.93	0.16	13.00	2.00
BV-14	13.39	0.16	0.80	0.14	4.30	0.70	12.00	3.00	103.00	12.00	58.10	1.70	19.80	0.20	2.62	0.17	11.00	2.00
BV-15	13.35	0.16	0.75	0.13	4.00	0.70	12.00	3.00	93.00	12.00	60.60	1.80	18.40	0.20	2.24	0.17	0.	0.68
BV-16	13.20	0.15	0.79	0.13	4.20	0.70	11.00	3.00	94.00	11.00	57.20	1.70	19.50	0.20	2.54	0.16	12.00	2.00
BV-17	15.32	0.17	0.94	0.16	5.10	0.80	14.00	4.00	86.00	11.00	73.00	2.00	15.14	0.20	2.09	0.13	10.00	2.00
BV-18	18.20	0.20	0.90	0.15	5.10	0.80	13.00	4.00	102.00	13.00	85.00	3.00	17.40	0.20	2.23	0.17	18.00	3.00
BV-20	8.97	0.11	0.52	0.09	2.40	0.40	11.00	3.00	65.00	9.00	44.00	1.30	17.10	0.20	3.46	0.16	9.00	2.00
BV-21	10.21	0.12	0.49	0.09	3.20	0.50	11.00	3.00	69.00	10.00	49.50	1.50	18.40	0.20	2.70	0.14	9.20	2.00
BV-22	17.44	0.20	0.82	0.14	4.70	0.80	12.00	3.00	86.00	12.00	81.00	2.00	16.90	0.20	2.14	0.16	10.00	2.00
BV-24	9.55	0.12	0.55	0.10	2.80	0.50	12.00	3.00	75.00	10.00	47.80	1.40	17.90	0.20	3.56	0.16	14.00	2.00
BV-25	14.78	0.17	0.94	0.16	5.10	0.80	13.00	4.00	94.00	11.00	71.00	2.00	14.94	0.18	2.21	0.12	6.80	1.80
BV-26	14.71	0.17	0.88	0.15	5.10	0.80	14.00	4.00	90.00	10.00	62.60	1.80	17.05	0.19	2.16	0.13	10.20	1.80
BV-27	15.70	0.20	1.08	0.18	6.00	0.90	14.00	4.00	94.00	9.00	65.00	2.00	17.50	0.20	1.88	0.08	10.00	1.00
BV-28	18.90	0.20	0.93	0.16	5.60	0.90	14.00	4.00	96.00	11.00	78.00	2.00	17.40	0.20	1.89	0.13	0.	0.49
BV-29	6.91	0.09	0.40	0.07	2.30	0.40	11.00	3.00	85.00	9.00	35.00	1.10	17.28	0.20	3.80	0.13	13.10	1.40
BV-31	13.28	0.16	0.82	0.14	4.80	0.80	12.00	4.00	89.00	10.00	56.50	1.70	16.77	0.19	2.16	0.12	14.30	1.80
BV-51	9.82	0.12	0.57	0.10	2.70	0.50	21.00	6.00	57.00	8.00	49.80	1.50	18.20	0.20	1.95	0.11	16.60	1.80
BV-52	12.22	0.15	0.61	0.11	3.10	0.50	25.00	7.00	68.00	10.00	60.10	1.80	22.90	0.30	2.47	0.15	22.00	3.00
BV-53	9.73	0.12	0.49	0.09	2.30	0.40	21.00	6.00	59.00	8.00	48.60	1.50	18.10	0.20	2.02	0.12	14.00	1.80
BV-56	11.49	0.13	0.45	0.08	2.40	0.40	25.00	7.00	53.00	7.00	60.80	1.80	20.50	0.20	1.80	0.09	13.60	1.60
BV-58	11.78	0.14	0.48	0.09	2.40	0.40	26.00	7.00	63.00	8.00	62.20	1.80	20.90	0.20	1.77	0.10	10.90	1.60

Standard error, based on the total number of detected gamma rays for each sample, follows to the right of each mean for each element which is reported in the same units as the concentration. All values are in parts per million (ppm), except for FeO and Na₂O, which are expressed in percent (%). The standard error for Na₂O is less than 0.005% unless otherwise noted. Values reported as 0.0 ppm for Co are below the detection limit defined as a calculated concentration less than three times the standard error. For Co, this is approximately 7.0 ppm.

for a number of trial bivariate plots against other selected elements. Ratios of inferential merit were determined to be those of Th with ytterbium (Yb) and Th with Cr. These ratios are presented in Figure 1 (Th/Yb) and Figure 2 (Th/Cr).

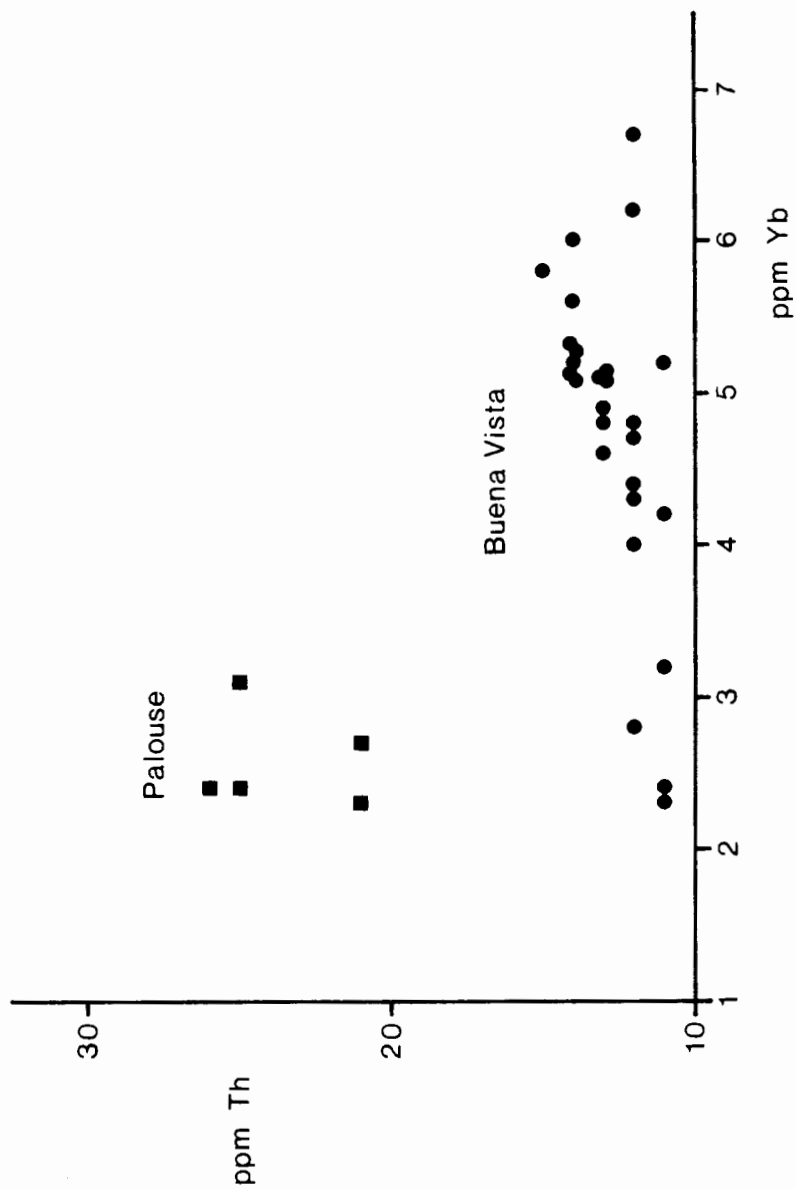


Figure 1. Scattergram of Th/Yb ratios for Buena Vista and Palouse ceramic samples.

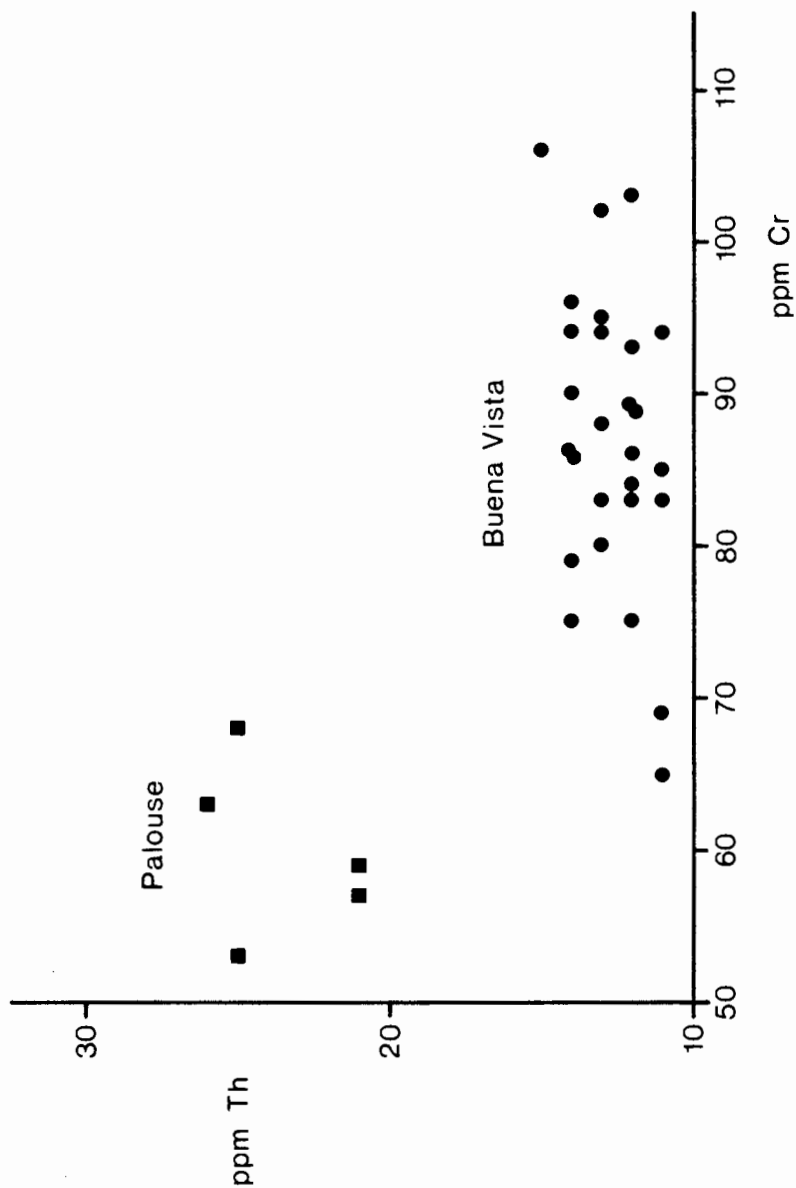


Figure 2. Scattergram of Th/Cr ratios for Buena Vista and Palouse ceramic samples.

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

Th/Yb AND Th/Cr RATIOS

Inferential chemical signatures for Buena Vista ceramics are reported in the Th/Yb and Th/Cr ratios (Figures 1 and 2) for two reasons: (1) They best illustrate a clear demarcation between the Palouse control group and the Buena Vista samples compared to all other ratios of selected elements and, (2) they confirm along with technological support a subgroup within the Buena Vista cluster itself.

In review of Table I, it will be seen that sample numbers BV-20, BV-21, and BV-24 consist of black and brown glazed covers with impressed floral motifs. For Buena Vista ceramics, these three samples appear distinctively to the left of the cluster in their Th/Yb ratios (Figure 1) and are represented by the three plots in the lower left of their Th/Cr ratios (Figure 2). Although, as will be discussed, consideration was given to other variables which might contribute to the generation of subgroups within the Buena Vista cluster, this subgroup is distinguished primarily by impressed floral motifs.

CHEMICAL VARIABILITY

Several explanations can be given for possible variability in the chemistry of clays and glazes used in the manufacture of ceramics.

These include different temper-to-clay ratios, incomplete mixing, uneven distribution of minerals such as large inclusions of one or more minerals, and firing temperature relative to volatilization and combustion of certain elements. Also, variations in clay sources, such as from flood plains or agricultural land, which may vary annually can influence chemical signatures in the products of a pottery (Rye 1981:47-49).

Some samples in this study were specifically prepared to determine if glaze chemistry would significantly skew the results of analysis. The following groups are inclusive of samples taken from the same sherd with, or without, glaze removed and reported as prepared: (1) BV-1, no glaze; BV-6, salt glaze; BV-7, Albany glaze; (2) BV-5, no glaze; BV-8, salt and Albany glaze; (3) BV-17, salt and Albany glaze; BV-25, Albany glaze; (4) BV-18, Albany glaze; BV-22, Albany glaze; (5) BV-20, Albany glaze; BV-24, Albany glaze; (6) BV-51, Albany and salt glaze with cobalt underglaze motif; BV-52, salt glaze with cobalt underglaze motif; BV-53, Albany glaze and cobalt underglaze motif; (7) BV-56, salt and Albany glaze; BV-58, Albany glaze (see Table I).

Assessment of the data as reported in the Th/Yb and Th/Cr ratios (Figures 1 and 2) and in the range of variation for all selected elements as presented in Figure 3 suggests that glaze chemistry had no significant effect on the concentrations of elements in samples of the above groups or on the analysis as a whole. Although glaze chemistry may contribute to the overall picture of chemical variability among samples in this study, variables previously mentioned must be given the

weight of consideration. At present it is not possible to attribute any causality in this arena of chemical variability.

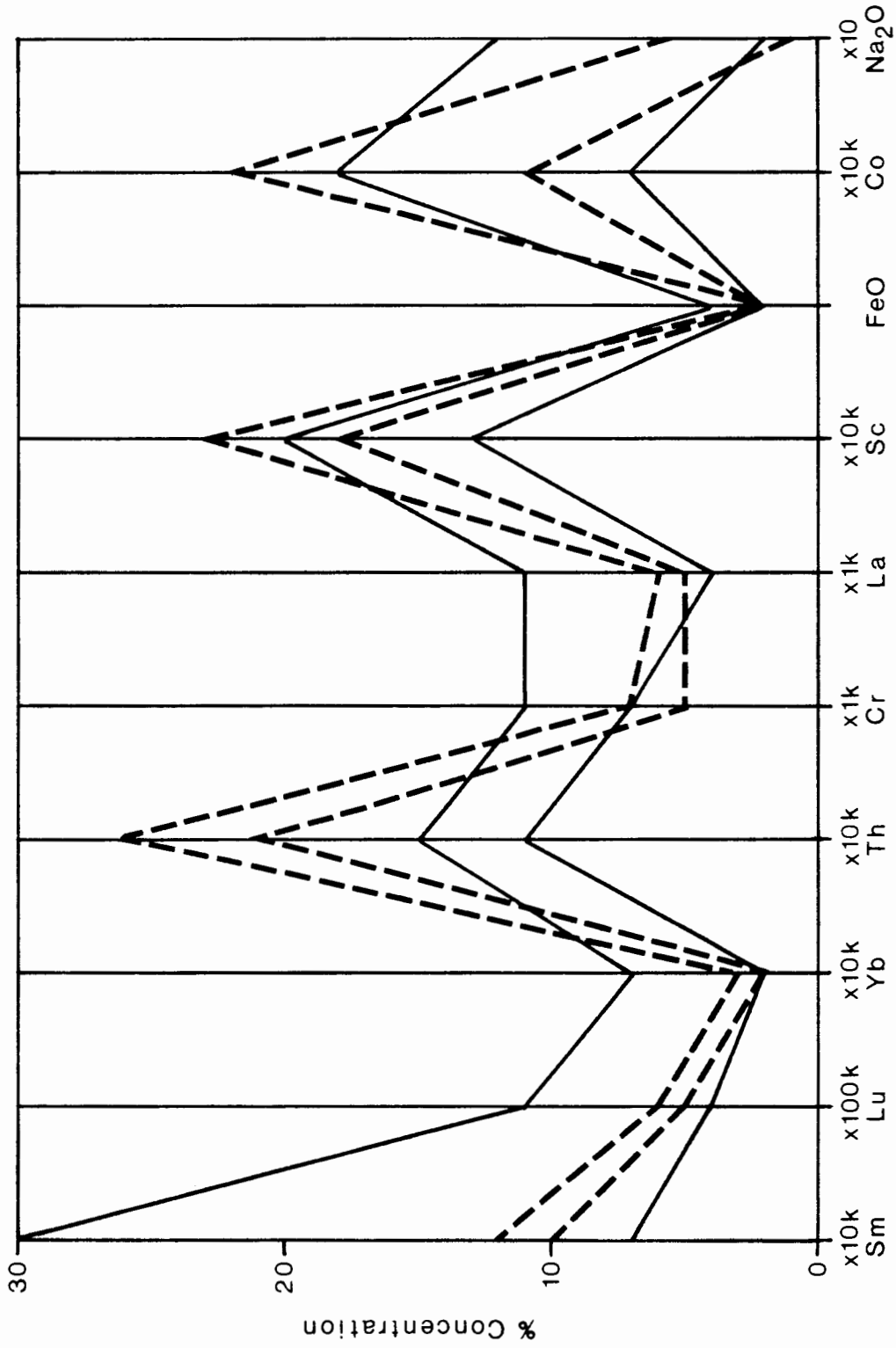


Figure 3. Comparison of the concentration ranges of selected elements for Buena Vista (solid lines) and Palouse (dashed lines) ceramics. Values have been rounded to their nearest whole percent ($k = 1,000$).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS

The Th/Yb and Th/Cr ratios in the samples tested demonstrate significant chemical signatures for the identification of Buena Vista ceramics. This conformity among samples serves further to validate the typological and processual schemata arrived at by Scheans (1984) with regard to a manufacturing provenience and its implied clay source(s).

With the possible exception of the floral impressed covers discussed in the previous chapter, variations in style and technology do not appear at this time to be a result of intrusive ceramics. Rather, this variation is most likely representative of historical development and/or idiosyncratic production.

Scheans (1984:4) has suggested that the floral impressed covers may be intrusive. If this is the case, these covers were probably manufactured using a clay source(s) located very near that used by the Buena Vista Pottery Company. The chemical subgroup of the cover samples is not that far removed from the Buena Vista cluster as a whole and is certainly within the range of variation found in the bivariate plots of other Buena Vista samples in their Th/Yb and Th/Cr ratios (see Figures 1 and 2). Possibilities which might explain the position of this subgroup, yet remain consistent with a singular manufacturing provenience, include different temper-to-clay ratios, perhaps for

increased durability, and historical accident, as in the use of clays from active floodplains or agricultural lands nearby.

The chemistry of salt and Albany slip glazes as well as cobalt underglazes used on Buena Vista and Palouse samples appears to have had little or no effect on the overall analysis of ceramics in this study.

Considering the statistical limitations set by the number of samples of Buena Vista and Palouse ceramics, the ranges of variation in the Th/Yb and Th/Cr ratios appear to be relatively small in each group respectively. Even so, the ranges of variation are large enough in the case of the Buena Vista samples to prompt inquiry beyond the scope of this study. Methodologies for ceramic compositional analysis should not be limited to those used for chemical analyses alone. Valuable supplemental data is available from petrographic analysis supported by a knowledge of regional geology. Compositional analyses of ceramics are obviously interdisciplinary pursuits requiring specialized knowledge and ideally a collaborative effort in geology, mineralogy, and chemistry for archaeological interpretation (see Bishop, Rands, and Holley 1982). Keeping the latter in mind, further research may help to explain the ranges of chemical variation determined in this study. Further research objectives for the study of Buena Vista ceramic chemistry should include, but not be limited to, clay sourcing, comparative studies of regional ceramics, and the examination of probable trade networks. As more data are compiled, it may become possible to isolate chemical subgroups attributable to formal identification and, with the benefit of archaeological inference, dating for historical and anthropological interpretations.

REFERENCES CITED

- Attas, M., Yaffe, L, and Fossey, J. M. 1977. Neutron Activation Analysis of Early Bronze Age Pottery from Lake Vouliagméni, Perakhóra, Central Greece. Archaeometry, 19(1):33-44.
- Beeson, Marvin H. 1986. Personal communication.
- Beeson, Marvine H. and Keedy, Curtis R. 1968. Unpublished manuscript.
- Bishop, Ronald L., Rands, Robert L., and Holley, George R. 1982. Ceramic Compositional Analysis and Archaeological Perspective. Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory, Volume 5. New York: Academic Press.
- Filby, R. H., et al. 1970 Gamma Ray Energy Tables for Neutron Activation Analysis. Pullman: Nuclear Radiation Center, Washington State University.
- Flanagan, F. J., ed. 1976. Description and Analysis of Eight New USGS Rock Standards: USGS Professional Paper, 840.
- McMillan, David J. 1978. Neutron Activation Analysis with Multiplet Deconvolution. Tracor Northern, Inc.
- Nelson, Glenn C. 1971. Ceramics: A Potter's Handbook. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.
- Rye, Owen S. 1981. Pottery Technology: Principles and Reconstruction. Washington: Taraxacum.
- Scheans, Daniel J. 1984. Buena Vista Stonewares: A Nineteenth Century Oregon Pottery. Northwest Anthropological Research Notes, 18(1):34-53.

APPENDIX

FORTRAN PROGRAM FOR INAA

RESO-LIB/GEOCHEM/INAA7

```

0010C THIS PROGRAM REDUCES INSTRUMENTAL NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS DATA TO
0020C ELEMENT ABUNDANCES BY COMPARING SAMPLES TO A KNOWN CONCENTRATION IN A
0030C STANDARD. IT ALSO COMPUTES RELATIVE ERRORS BASED ON COUNTING STATISTICS.
0040C PROGRAMMED: MARVIN H BEESON - CURTIS R KEEDY, REED COLLEGE, 1968
0050C MODIFIED: ANSEL G JOHNSON - MICHAEL R MORAN, PORTLAND STATE UNIV. AUG 1975
0060C MODIFIED: MICHAEL R MORAN, PORTLAND STATE UNIV. FEB 1977
0070C
0080C PROGRAM IS IN 029 PUNCH CODE
0090C
0100C
0110C
0115C FIRST DATA CARD
0120C II NUMBER OF SPECTRA DETECTED I2
0130C JJ NUMBER OF PEAKS PER SPECTRA I2
0140C NE NUMBER OF ELEMENTS PER SPECTRA I2
0150C NS NUMBER OF SPECTRA TO BE EXCLUDED FROM SUMMARY TABLE I2
0160C EXPID EXPERIMENT IDENTIFICATION A72
0170C
0180C SECOND DATA GROUP - STANDARD AND SAMPLE INFORMATION (LINE 51)
0190C 2 DATA GROUPS PER CARD
0200C
0210C NAME1 1ST HALF STANDARD OR SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION A4
0220C NAME2 2ND HALF STANDARD OR SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION A4
0230C ***** 2X
0240C WT WEIGHT OF SAMPLE OR STANDARD F6.4
0250C ***** 1X
0260C CTD1 TIME IN DAYS TO START OF COUNTING AFTER IRRADIATION F10.6
0270C ***** 1X
0280C DTM1 DETECTION TIME IN SECONDS F7.0
0290C ***** 1X
0300C
0310C THIRD DATA CARD GROUP - ELEMENT INFORMATION (LINE 55)
0320C 1 DATA GROUP PER CARD
0330C
0340C NMPK ELEMENT DETECTED, PEAK NAME A4
0350C ***** 2X
0360C ISTD LOCATION OF STANDARD AMONG ORDERED SAMPLES AND STANDARDS I2
0370C ***** 2X
0380C CONC ELEMENT CONCENTRATION IN STANDARD F9.2
0390C ***** 2X
0400C HLF HALF-LIFE, IN DAYS, OF ISOTOPE BEING DETECTED F10.5
0410C ***** 2X
0420C UNITS UNITS OF MEASURE FOR STANDARD A4
0430C ***** 2X
0440C MP NUMBER OF ELEMENT PEAKS TO BE AVERAGED IN SUMMARY TABLE I1
0450C
0460C FOURTH DATA CARD GROUP (LINE 57)
0470C 5 DATA GROUPS PER CARD
0480C
0490C NC1 NET COUNTS IN PEAK F8.0
0500C ***** 1X
0510C ERR NET ERROR FOR EACH PEAK F4.1,1X
0520C
0530C
0540 REAL NAME1(45),NAME2(45),NMPK(30),LAM,NC,NC1(45)
0550 DIMENSION WT(45),CTD1(45),DTM1(45),ERR(45),EXPID(18)
0560 DIMENSION PPM(30,45),REL(30,45),PPM1(20,45),REL1(20,45),MP(30)
0570 READ(22,101)II,JJ,NE,NS,(EXPID(K),K=1,18)
0580 101 FORMAT(4I2,18A4)
0590 READ(22,102)(NAME1(I),NAME2(I),WT(I),CTD1(I),DTM1(I),I=1,II)
0600 102 FORMAT (2(2A4,2X,F6.4,1X,F10.6,1X,F7.0,1X))
0610 DO 2 I1=1,JJ
0620 J=1

```

```

0630      READ(22,103)NMPK(I1),ISTD,CONC,HLF,UNITS,MP(I1)
0640 103 FORMAT (A4,2X,I2,2X,F9.2,2X,F10.5,2X,A4,2X,I1)
0650      READ (22,104)(NC1(I),ERR(I),I=1,II)
0660 104 FORMAT(5(F8.0,1X,F4.1,1X))
0670      M=1
0680      DO3 I3=1,II
0690      4 CONTINUE
0700      I4=I3
0710      IF (J-1) 5,6,5
0720      6 I4=ISTD
0730      WTEMP=WT(I4)
0740      WRITE (6,105) (EXPID(ID),ID=1,18)
0750 105 FORMAT(1H1,18A4,/)
0760      WT(I4)=CONC
0770      5 NC=NC1(I4)
0780      ERR1=ERR(I4)/100
0790      DTM=DTM1(I4)/60
0800      CTD=CTD1(I4)
0810      STD=WT(I4)
0820      IF (NC-0.0) 300,10,1001
0830 1001 ACT=NC/DTM
0840      LAM=0.6931/HLF
0850      XLAM=EXP(-LAM*DTM*.00069444)
0860      CHI=(LAM*DTM*.00069444)/(1.0-XLAM)
0870      ACT1=ACT*CHI
0880      YLAM=EXP(-LAM*CTD)
0890      ACT0=ACT1/YLAM
0900      ERR1=ERR1*ERR1
0910      IF (J-1) 20,30,20
0920      30 STD=STD*WTEMP
0930      WT(I4)=WTEMP
0940      ACTS=ACT0/STD
0950      ERST=ERR1
0960      J=2
0970      WRITE(6,107)NAME1(I4),NAME2(I4),CONC,UNITS,HLF
0980 107 FORMAT(1X,2A4,1X,F12.4,1X,A4,2X,'      HLF = ',F10.5,/)
0990      WRITE (6,109)NMPK(I1),NMPK(I1)
1000 109 FORMAT (35X,A4,66X,A4,/)
1010      WRITE(6,108)UNITS,UNITS
1020 108 FORMAT(1X,'SAMPLE',6X,'WT',7X,'CTD',6X,'DTM'
1030% ,6X,A4,8X,'ERR',21X,'SAMPLE',7X,A4,6X,'ERR',/)
1040      GO TO 4
1050      20 ABUN=ACT0/ACTS
1060      PPM(I1,I3)=ABUN/STD
1070      ERU=ERR1
1080      RL=SQRT(ERST+ERU)
1090      REL(I1,I3)=PPM(I1,I3)*RL
1100      WRITE(6,106)NAME1(I3),NAME2(I3),STD,CTD,DTM,PPM(I1,I3)
1110% ,REL(I1,I3),NAME1(I3),NAME2(I3),PPM(I1,I3),REL(I1,I3)
1120 106 FORMAT(1X,2A4,1X,F7.4,1X,F10.6,1X,F7.3,1X,F10.4,1X,F10.4,19X,2A4
1130% ,1X,F8.2,1X,F8.2)
1140      GO TO 207
1150      10 WRITE (6,113)NAME1(I3),NAME2(I3),STD,CTD,DTM,NAME1(I3)
1160% ,NAME2(I3)
1170 113 FORMAT(1X,2A4,1X,F7.4,1X,F10.6,1X,F7.3,7X,'N.D.',7X,
1180% 'N.D.',19X,2A4,5X,'N.D.',5X,'N.D.')
1190      PPM(I1,I3)=0.0
1200      REL(I1,I3)=1.E10
1210 207 M=M+1
1220      IF (M.LE.5) GO TO 3
1230      WRITE(6,214)
1240      M=1
1250      3 CONTINUE
1260      2 CONTINUE
1270      II=II-NS
1280      J=1
1290      DO 230 K=1,NE
1300      NMPK(K)=NMPK(J)
1310      M=MP(J)
1320      IF (M-1)300,231,1010
1330 1010 IF (M-2) 300,233,1020
1340 1020 IF (M-3) 300,235,1030
1350 1030 IF (M-4) 300,237,300
1360 231 DO 232 I=1,II
1370      PPM1(K,I)=PPM(J,I)
1380      REL1(K,I)=REL(J,I)
1390      IF (PPM1(K,I)-0.0)300,1002,232
1400 1002 REL1(K,I)=0
1410 232 CONTINUE
1420      J=J+1
1430      GO TO 230

```



```

1440 233 DO 234 I=1,II
1450 PPM1(K,I)=(PPM(J,I)/REL(J,I)+PPM(J+1,I)/REL(J+1,I))/(1./REL
1460 (J,I)+1./REL(J+1,I))
1470 REL1(K,I)=AMIN1(REL(J,I),REL(J+1,I))
1480 IF(PPM1(K,I)-0.0)300,1003,234
1490 1003 REL1(K,I)=0
1500 234 CONTINUE
1510 J=J+2
1520 GO TO 230
1530 235 DO 236 I=1,II
1540 PPM1(K,I)=(PPM(J,I)/REL(J,I)+PPM(J+1,I)/REL(J+1,I)+PPM(J+2,I)
1550 /REL(J+2,I))/(1./REL(J,I)+1./REL(J+1,I)+1./REL(J+2,I))
1560 REL1(K,I)=AMIN1(REL(J,I),REL(J+1,I),REL(J+2,I))
1570 IF(PPM1(K,I)-0.0)300,1004,236
1580 1004 REL1(K,I)=0
1590 236 CONTINUE
1600 J=J+3
1610 GO TO 230
1620 237 DO 238 I=1,II
1630 PPM1(K,I)=(PPM(J,I)/REL(J,I)+PPM(J+1,I)/REL(J+1,I)+PPM(J+2,I)
1640 /REL(J+2,I)+PPM(J+3,I)/REL(J+3,I))/(1./REL(J,I)+1./REL
1650 (J+1,I)+1./REL(J+2,I)+1./REL(J+3,I))
1660 REL1(K,I)=AMIN1(REL(J,I),REL(J+1,I),REL(J+2,I),REL(J+3,I))
1670 IF (PPM1(K,I)-0.0)300,1005,238
1680 1005 REL1(K,I)=0
1690 238 CONTINUE
1700 J=J+4
1710 230 CONTINUE
1720 DO 250 K=1,NE
1730 DO 251 I=1,II
1740 IF(PPM1(K,I)-0.0)300,251,1006
1750 1006 P=.02
1760 N=0
1770 204 N=N+1
1780 IF(N.GT.7)GO TO 300
1790 P=P*10
1800 IF(REL1(K,I)-P)208,1007,1007
1810 1007 GO TO 204
1820 208 DECPL=10.**N-3
1830 REL1(K,I)=FLOAT(IFIX((REL1(K,I)+5.*10.**N-4)/DECPL))*DECPL
1840 PPM1(K,I)=FLOAT(IFIX((PPM1(K,I)+5.*10.**N-4)/DECPL))*DECPL
1850 251 CONTINUE
1860 250 CONTINUE
1870 K=1
1880 L=7
1890 212 WRITE (6,226)EXPID
1900 226 FORMAT(1H1,////,1X,18A4,/)
1910 IF(L.GT.NE)L=NE
1920 WRITE (6,213)(NMPK(I),I=K,L)
1930 213 FORMAT (1X,'SAMPLE',10X,7(A2,14X))
1940 WRITE(6,214)
1950 214 FORMAT(1H )
1960 M=1
1970 N=5
1980 215 IF(N.GT.II)N=II
1990 DO 210 I=M,N
2000 210 WRITE(6,224)NAME1(I),NAME2(I),(PPM1(J,I),REL1(J,I),J=K,L)
2010 224 FORMAT (1X,2A4,7(2(1X,F7,2)))
2020 WRITE(6,214)
2030 M=M+5
2040 N=N+5
2050 IF(M.LE.II)GO TO 215
2060 K=K+7
2070 L=L+7
2080 IF(K.GT.NE)GO TO 206
2090 GO TO 212
2100 206 WRITE(6,209)
2110 209 FORMAT(1H1)
2120 300 CONTINUE
2130 STOP
2140 END

```